

image

1771



Attorney Docket No.: 998-816

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of)	
Messina <i>et al.</i>)	Examiner: Guarriello, John J.
)	
Serial No.: 09/990,115)	Group Art Unit: 1771
)	
Filed: November 21, 2001)	Date: October 1, 2003

For: SOUND ATTENUATING/ABSORBING LAMINATES AND METHODS OF MAKING SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement is responsive to the Office Action (the "Action") mailed September 25, 2003.

REMARKS

The Action states that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- Invention I: Claims 1-26 and 52-72;
- Invention II: Claims 27-39 and 73-82;
- Invention III: Claims 40-51, 83-91 and 102-106;
- Invention IV: Claims 92-96; or
- Invention V: Claims 97-101.

For purposes of providing a complete reply to the Action, Applicants elect Invention I (Claims 1-26 and 52-72) for prosecution on the merits.

This election is made with traverse, however, because the nature of the subject matter is such that it would enable the Examiner to search the claims of Inventions I through V. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not create an undue hardship on the Examiner to search Inventions I through V together. (See M.P.E.P. § 803).